

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An FEP pellet having a volatile content of 0.2 % by weight or less, wherein said FEP pellet satisfies the following requirements (i) and (ii) when used to form an insulating material coating a core wire by extrusion coating at a coating speed of 2,800 ft/min.:

(i) an adhesive strength between said insulating material and said core wire of 0.8 kg or more; and

(ii) an average number of cone-breaks in said insulating material of one or less per 50,000 ft of the coated core wire.

2. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, which comprises an FEP having an adhesion terminus, said adhesion terminus comprising at least one functional group species selected from the group consisting of $-\text{COOM}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{OSO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$, $-\text{COF}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CONH}_2$ and $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}_2$, and

M being the same or different and representing an alkyl group, a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation or a quaternary ammonium cation.

3. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the adhesion terminus comprises -COF, -COOH and/or -CH₂OH, and
the total number of -COF, -COOH and -CH₂OH is 15 to 150 per 1,000,000 carbon
atoms.

4. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 3,
wherein the total number of -COF and -COOH is 2 to 25, and
the number of -COF is 0 to 5, -COOH is 2 to 25 and -CH₂OH is 0 to 148 per 1,000,000
carbon atoms.

5. (currently amended): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, having a melt
flow rate of 30 (g/10 minutes) or more.

6. (currently amended): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 5~~, having a die
swell of 18 to 35%.

7. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 6, having an MIT bending life of 4,000
cycles or more, and

said FEP pellet comprising a tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer
modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether).

8. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 7,
wherein said perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is perfluoro(propyl vinyl ether).

9. (original): An FEP pellet

comprising a tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether),

having a melt flow rate of 30 (g/10 minutes) or more, and

having a volatile content of 0.2 % by weight or less,

wherein said tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) has an adhesion terminus,

said adhesion terminus comprising at least one functional group species selected from the group consisting of $-\text{COOM}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{OSO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$, $-\text{COF}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CONH}_2$ and $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}_2$, and

M being the same or different and representing an alkyl group, a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation or a quaternary ammonium cation.

10. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9,

wherein said adhesion terminus comprises $-\text{COF}$, $-\text{COOH}$ and/or $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, and

the total number of $-\text{COF}$, $-\text{COOH}$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ is 15 to 150 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

11. (original): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 10,

wherein the total number of $-\text{COF}$ and $-\text{COOH}$ is 2 to 25, and

the number of -COF is 0 to 5, -COOH is 2 to 25 and -CH₂OH is 0 to 148 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

12. (currently amended): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, ~~10 or 11~~, wherein the tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is one having a weight ratio of contents of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) as monomer components of 70 to 90 : 10 to 20 : 0 to 10.

13. (currently amended): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, ~~10, 11 or 12~~, wherein said perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is perfluoro(propyl vinyl ether).

14. (currently amended): The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, ~~10, 11, 12 or 13~~, wherein the melt flow rate is 30 to 50 (g/10 minutes).

15. (currently amended): An insulating material formed from the FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14~~.

16. (currently amended): An insulated cable comprising a core wire extrusion-coated with an insulating material prepared from the FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14~~.

Preliminary Amendment
National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/00330

17. (currently amended): A process for insulating a core wire,
which comprises extrusion coating the core wire with a molten insulating material comprising
the FEP pellet as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13~~ or 14.